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***SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD***

Washington, DC 20423

Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis, and Administration

April 2, 2004

Mr. Archie Gerdes  
450 CR 351  
Hondo, Texas 78861

**Re: STB Finance Docket No. 34284, Southwest Gulf Railroad Company –  
Construction and Operation Exemption – Medina County, TX –  
Request to be Consulting Party under Section 106 of the National  
Historic Preservation Act**

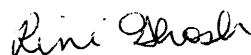
Dear Mr. Gerdes:

Thank you for your letter in which you request to participate as a consulting party in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) section 106 process. As you know, the Surface Transportation Board's Section of Environmental Analysis is conducting an environmental review of Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's proposed rail construction and operation in Medina County, Texas, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and related environmental regulations, including NHPA.

We appreciate your interest in our environmental review process and your request to become a consulting party in the NHPA section 106 process. We are pleased to include you in your capacity as a private landowner as a section 106 consulting party for this proceeding and will make sure that you receive all information regarding the ongoing section 106 process.

If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 565-1539.

Sincerely,



Rini Ghosh  
Section of Environmental Analysis

cc: Bill Martin, Texas Historical Commission  
Pamela Opiela, Texas Historical Commission